

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 11-13, 21 and 25-28 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 9, 11, 12 and 25 are amended; Claims 10, 14 and 22 are canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph; Claims 9, 10, 12-14, 21-22, 25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2001-182872 to Yukinobu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,188 to Besche; and Claims 11 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yukinobu and Besche and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,973,440 to Tamura.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest a bellows composed of a thin metal and having troughs and ridges, a fiber braid reinforcement covering the bellows, a buffer material covering the outer face of the bellows, with gaps in the fiber braid reinforcement being impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition, as recited in Claim 9.

The Office Action asserts on page 4 that Yukinobu teaches the features of the claimed invention. However, Applicants submit that Yukinobu merely discusses in [0017] that the additional unvulcanized rubber layer is twisted around the outer layer of the reinforcement. There is no teaching or suggestion in Yukinobu for gaps in the fiber impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition. As such, the features of the claimed invention are different from the teachings in the applied art.

In accordance with one or more examples of the claimed invention, the resin can protect the fiber braid reinforcement from fiber displacement even when the vibration-

absorbing tube is used in a curved state and the bellows can maintain high durability for long period of time. See for example page 14 of the present specification.

Additionally, a further advantageous feature of one or more examples of the invention can be shown from the Table attached to the present amendment. As shown in Table I, it is clear from the results of comparison sample 5 to sample 3 in the pressure resistance test (0 to 21 Mpa). Namely, sample 5 of the vibration-absorbing tube including a fiber braid reinforcement impregnated with rubber according to an example of the invention, was more than 100,000 times highly improved in pressure resistance between 0 to 21 Mpa. On the other hand, sample 3 including a fiber braid reinforcement not impregnated with rubber was only 30,000 times in pressure resistance between the same.

With respect to the applied art of Tamura, Tamura relates to a fiber-reinforced thermosetting resin molding for hot pressing injecting. The resin molding in Tamura is reinforced by scattering short sized cut fibers in resin. In contrast, one or more exemplary embodiments of the present invention relate to the vibration-absorbing tube comprising a fiber braid reinforcement. The vibration-absorbing tube of the present invention provides superior vibration absorbency, whip resistance and pressure resistance shown by the present specification and Table I. But resin molding for hot pressing injecting as in Tamura is only required for the strength resin mold itself, as shown in Table I in the specification of Tamura.

Again, Claim 9 recites in part, a vibration-absorbing tube including a fiber braid reinforcement covering a bellows with gaps in the fiber reinforcement being impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition. Tamura and the claimed invention are different. Besche does not make up for the deficiencies of the applied art discussed above. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Tamura, Yoshiyuki and Besche.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

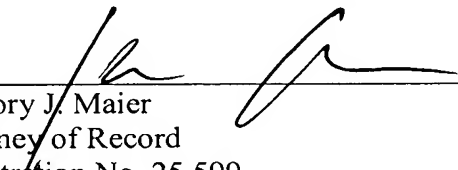
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Table I

	Sample	Buffer Material		Fiber braid reinforcement		Vibration absorptency (dB)	Whip resistance (h)	Pressure resistance [0 to 15 MPa] (time)	Pressure resistance [0 to 21 MPa] (time)
		Thickness from the ridge of bellows (mm)	Height of buffer material relative to H (mm)	Bias angle (°)	Impregnated with rubber				
Comparative Example 1	1	0	0	54.7	Not impregnated	-6.9: B	0.1-0.2: B	70,000: B	26,000: B
Comparative Example 2	2	0	0	40.0	Not impregnated	-7.1: B	0.1-0.2: B	> 200,000: A	67,000: B
Example 1	(3)	0.1	1.06H	40.0	Not impregnated	-10.8: A	> 200: A	> 200,000: A	30,000: B
Example 2	4	Under the narrowest parts of the bellows	0.67H	40.0	Not impregnated	-9.5: A	> 200: A	> 200,000: A	> 100,000: A
Example 3	(5)	0.1	1.06H	40.0	Impregnated	-9.3: A	> 200: A	> 200,000: A	> 100,000: A
	6	1.0	1.61H	40.0	Impregnated	-9.0: A	> 200: A	> 200,000: A	> 100,000: A
	7	2.0	2.23H	40.0	Impregnated	-9.1: A	2-3: B	100,000: B	60,000: B
	8	0.1	1.06H	54.7	Impregnated	-8.1: A	> 200: A	90,000: B	50,000: B
	9	0.1	1.06H	45.0	Impregnated	-8.9: A	> 200: A	> 200,000: A	> 100,000: A
	10	0.1	1.06H	35.0	Impregnated	-10.1: A	> 200: A	> 200,000: A	> 100,000: A